

April 29, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**REPORT ON ISSUES RELATED TO DECEASED HOUSED IN CORONER FACILITIES
(RELATES TO ITEM NO. 110 OF 04/30/02 BOARD AGENDA)**

This is in response to your request that my office review the issues regarding the vermin eradication and protection of the deceased housed in the Coroner's facilities.

Based on our review of the Coroner's report dated April 21, 2002 and the current financial status of their budget, we believe that the Coroner has sufficient funding to purchase the fixed asset items mentioned in the report this fiscal year. An electronic crypt door (\$10,000) and a surveillance camera (\$92,000) can be purchased with the Department's projected current year savings resulting from reduced expenditures and increased revenue for services provided to other departments.

We will work with the Coroner to review their request for funding for Fiscal Year 2002-03 for one Forensic Attendant, one Senior Typist Clerk, a contract for embalming bodies, and a contract for cremation of bodies. Our recommendation will be included in the Final Changes recommendations we submit to your Board in June.

Furthermore, the Coroner is reexamining all cases and reassessing their policy for long-term storage of the deceased. The Department is working to update their inventory to ensure accuracy in the monitoring and tracking of cases. The Coroner is in the process of implementing a procedure to notify staff when bodies do not get released as scheduled. This notification process will assist the Department in keeping an accurate count of bodies housed in their facilities at all times.

If you have any questions regarding these issues, please let me know, or your staff may contact Barbara Uyeda at (213) 974-1457.

DEJ:BU
AC:ljp

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Coroner